Dear Henry, Durkin 1/2/76

My answer to your 12/30 will be shorter than you might like. Our lives change this time of the year. Our only regular income is my wife's as manager of a local H & R Block office. It began today, runs to 4/16, and for this period I'll also have to do part of what she does here. Today this means making up about a dozen orders and responding to that many or more letters, with the late start from having to drive her to the office and the interruption of going for her.

I'm making an exception today and taking care of the correspondence first partly because I'll have to stay up for the CBS show (I'm trying to rest more to recovery more fully and faster) and perhaps can get the packaging done then. Otherwise, this will be the one occasion on which today's orders are not in tomorrow's mail. We'll do them over the weeked and mail them Monday. But in addition to the considerable amount of other work I try to do, of which you know a little, I have had to undertake still new responsibilities simply because there is no choice. I'll be even busier in the time I can work.

The date of issue of Acquarian tends to limit the possibilities. It is remotely possible that at some prior time after appearance of Post hortem I did a radio show by phone in which the question came up, but the detail eliminates that as a possibility.

I had two commissions as a consultant on the McDonald book. I have to regard both as confidential. In meeting these I did supply considerable detail. But not under any other circumstances or in any detail to anyone else. So, my best guess is that the author is connected with one of those for whom I did work. I regret I have to keep the content of the work confidential. I asked for a release and was refused it. This does not keep me from telling you a few of the things I learned, but I'd like you to keep them confidential because I have asked DJ to institute a fraud/mail fraud investigation. In several weeks no response. If I were in NY I'd go to the NYCounty DA. It is a gross and deliberate fraud, completely made up and out of nothing. It has all the characteristics of a spook black book. There are three different versions and I have all three. FYI only, they contradict each other. The have different times and places, different sponsorship of the job, etc. Different accounts of how he saw Saul's picture. (Saul is next to Raul.)

There is, in, short, nothing in the whole book that stacks. Aside from the fraud.

I understand so vast a sum is being spent in promotion that its high place on the sales list does not really mean the book is in the black yet. This means that someone was running a considerable financial risk. While there are business people who take long shots on profit, this one seems farout. I've heard someone named Geller in Conn. is the angel.

If you hear anything on this I'd like to know simply because there is the possibility that it is a spook job, to destroy all credibility and to build sympathy.

While I've not had time to read it, there are aspects of Anson's that fir this. His formula for one thing. It is a major ripoff, too. So, I have similar interests in his and what he says, etc., on the chance and for archival purposes.

If the lecture bureau could have booked me in L.A. it would have. The major problem is the competition from the commercializers who rip the mind off with the pocket. They have corrupted a fair percentage of current collegiate minds with the wildest stuff. But I have challenged Salwson to arrange a debate, leaving the format up to him.

Thanks and excuse the typos.

Have a good year,